

Application No: 10/792,074
Art Unit 3754

ANNOTATED SHEETS



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An actuator is disclosed for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container. The actuator comprises an actuator button being rotatable relative to a base for movement between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position. The actuator button has a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface with an actuator button orifice defined in the sidewall of the actuator button. The actuator button is movable ~~tiltable~~ relative to the base for actuating the aerosol valve to dispense the aerosol product when the actuator button is rotated into the unlocked rotational position. The actuator button is inhibited from actuating the aerosol valve ~~tilting relative to the base~~ when the actuator button is moved into the locked rotational position.

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A specific embodiment of the present invention is shown in the attached drawings. For the purpose of summarizing the invention, the invention relates to an actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container. The actuator comprises a base having a mounting for securing to the aerosol container. A nozzle defines a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a terminal orifice. An actuator button is rotatable relative to the base for movement between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position. The actuator button has a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface with an actuator button orifice defined in the sidewall of the actuator button. The actuator button is movable ~~tiltable~~ relative to the base for actuating the aerosol valve to dispense the aerosol product from the aerosol container for discharge through the terminal orifice when the actuator button is rotated into the unlocked rotational position. The actuator button is inhibited from actuating the aerosol valve ~~tilting~~ ~~in entirety relative to the base~~ when the actuator button is moved into the locked rotational position.

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in an unlocked rotational position and in an actuated position;

FIG. 56 is an enlarged partial sectional view along line 56-56 in FIG. 55;

FIG. 57 is an enlarged front view of the improved actuator of FIG. 55;

FIG. 58 is a bottom view of FIG. 57;

FIG. 59 is a sectional view along line 59-59 in FIG. 57; and

FIG. 60 is a sectional view along line 60-60 in FIG. 57 ~~similar to FIG. 59 with a portion of the nozzle being removed for the purpose of illustration.~~

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several Figures of the drawings.

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FIGS. 3-6 are enlarged views of the improved actuator 10 of FIGS. 1 and 2. The improved actuator 10 comprises a base 60 and an actuator button 70. As will be described in greater detail hereinafter, the actuator button 70 is rotatable relative to the base 60 between an unlocked rotational position as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 and a locked rotational position as shown in FIGS. 19 and 20. The actuator button 70 is movable or tiltable relative to the base 60 as shown in FIG. 26 for actuating the aerosol valve 20 to dispense the aerosol product 11 from the aerosol container 40 when the actuator button 70 is rotated into the unlocked rotational position as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. The actuator button 70 inhibited from moving or tilting relative to the base 60 as shown in FIG. 20 when the actuator button 70 is moved into the locked rotational position as shown in FIGS. 19 and 20.

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When the actuator button 70 is located in the locked rotational position, the terminal orifice 116 of the nozzle is covered by the sidewall 73 of the actuator button orifice ~~[[76]]~~ 78 of the actuator button 70. The groove rib 180 engages with the inner ring 90 to prevent the actuator surface 79 of the actuator button 70 from depressing the nozzle actuating surface 118. The actuator button 70 is inhibited from tilting relative to the base 60 when the actuator button 70 is moved into the locked rotational position and is likewise inhibited from actuating the aerosol valve 20.

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The aerosol container 240 extends between a top portion 241 and a bottom portion 242 with a cylindrical sidewall 243 located therebetween. The bottom portion 242 of the aerosol container 240 is closed by an endwall 244. A ~~[[chine]]~~ chine 245 is secured to the top portion 241 of the aerosol container 240 by an annular seam 248 for closing the top portion 241 of the aerosol container 240. The ~~[[chine]]~~ chine 245 terminates in a bead 246 defining an opening 247 in the aerosol container 240 for receiving a mounting cup 250.

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The base 260 includes a base mounting 266 for securing the base 260 to the aerosol container 240. The base ~~[[projection]]~~ mounting 266 is shown as a plurality of radial base projections 266 extending radially inwardly for securing the base 260 to the aerosol container 240. In this example, the plurality of radial base projections 266 engage with the turret 254 of the mounting cup 250 in a frictional engagement. However, it should be understood that the base projection 266 may engage the annular seam 248 located at the top portion 241 of the aerosol container 240 in a snap locking engagement.

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The actuator button 270 includes a button retainer 277 for cooperating with the base retainer 267 for rotationally securing the actuator button 270 to the base 260. The button retainer 277 is shown as a plurality of annular ~~[[projection]]~~ projections 277 extending radially inwardly from the inner surface 275 of the sidewall 273 of the actuator button 270. The radially inwardly extending button retainers 277 cooperate with the radially outwardly extending button retainers 267 for rotationally securing the actuator button 270 to the base 260.

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FIGS. 37-42 illustrate various views of the base 260 shown in FIGS. 33-36. The first end 261 of the base 260 defines an outer ring 280. The outer ring 280 is a substantially cylindrical upper portion of the cylindrical sidewall 263. A plurality of radial ribs 282 extends radially inwardly from the inner surface 265 of the cylindrical sidewall 263. The plurality of radial ribs 282 supports an inner ring 284. The outer ring 280 and the inner ring 284 are coaxial with the axis of symmetry 213 of the axis of symmetry 213 of the actuator 210.